

The attendance of members at the recent Congress was much larger than at any previous one. They came from distant parts of the United States and from Canada.

JNO. H. SAGE,
Secretary.

GENERAL NOTES.

A Rare Record for Eastern Long Island.—On October 7, 1899, I received a fine specimen of the Fork-tailed or Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabinii*). It was shot the day before in Gardiners Bay, between Orient, L. I., and Shelter Island, and sent me in the flesh. It was the only one seen. It was in young-of-the-year plumage, and on dissection proved to be a female. It was in excellent condition, with a thick layer of fat all over the body. The stomach contained an entire cut-worm moth (*Agrotis*), and the macerated remains of other insects, picked up, without doubt, from the water where they had fallen exhausted, having wandered from the land. The above, so far as I am aware, is a new record for Long Island, and the farthest south for the species under consideration.—W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.*

Some Notes on the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).—The evidence that there is no such bird as *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* continues to accumulate. Doubts of the validity of this subspecies have been expressed before, both orally and in print. (Cf. Knight, List of Birds of Me., p. 19; Maine Sportsman, July, '98, p. 13; Journal of the Me. Orn. Soc., Oct. 1899, p. 37). These records refer to the occurrence in Maine of specimens referable to *L. argentatus*, and finally question the existence of any subspecific differences between American and European specimens. While in Portland a short time ago I had occasion to visit the shop of a local taxidermist and noticed a large number of these birds which he had skinned for sale to milliners. After carefully examining fully 100 specimens, which had been shot in Portland Harbor and vicinity, I was delighted to find ten specimens which were, as regards the first primaries, typical examples of *L. argentatus*. Three of the birds had the first primary entirely white at the tip without any trace of a black bar or dot, and the others had the black bar only slightly indicated. Other specimens had the black bar more complete, and a perfect series of gradations could be found between adult birds with